thousand Armed Forces personnel retire each year.

(b) and (c) The Department of Personnel and Training have issued detailed instructions to all Ministries and Departments of Government of India. The progress is regularly monitored by Ministry of Defence, and the need for recruitment of ex-Servicemen against reserved vacancies is emphasised whenever necessary.

Malpractices by drug manufacturers Pesticide policy

@1322. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nuclear Power Corporation has been directed by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) to sequentially shut down the nuclear power stations; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether such periodical shut-down have been carried out in past at Nuclear Power Station; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the number of accidents in a nuclear power stations that have occurred during the five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) In the wake of the fire incident at the Narora Atomic Power Station, as a measure of abundant caution, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has directed the Nuclear Power Corporation to take up the inspection of the turbine generators of the Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors by a sequential shutdown of these power stations.

(b) Periodic shutdown of power plants for routine inspection and maintenance is a standard practice and has been done earlier also.

(c) No accident has occurred in any of the nuclear power stations in India so far.

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 214, transferred from 27th July, 1993.

Accidents at Atomic Energy Plants

1323. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more frequent accidents are occurring at various atomic energy plants;

(b) the details of accidents at AEC plants during 1991-92 and 1992-93; and

(c) what fresh safeguards are going to be enforced to reduce the occurrence of serious accidents at atomic energy plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) As per the International Nuclear Event Scale, events are classified on a Scale of 1 to 7 based on the nuclear and radiological safety levels. While the lower levels i.e. 1 to 3 are termed incidents, the upper levels from 4 to 7 are termed accidents. There have been no accidents in any of the installations of the Department of Atomic Energy so far.

(c) All incidents during the operation of the nuclear power stations are reviewed in depth and recommendations based on such reviews by the Safety Bodies are acted upon.

Closure of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant

1324. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first unit of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant (RAPP) was closed twice recently due to a technical fault; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) There were two long outages in the first unit of the Rajasthan